



AL-10-000-5326

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

MAY 05 2010

The Honorable John P. Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Sarbanes:

Thank you for your letter of April 7, 2010 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggesting enhancements in the citizen stewardship and environmental education components in the final Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

We understand that citizens are more likely to protect the places they know and care about and, therefore, a chapter on citizen stewardship and education with specific actions and initiatives will be included in the final strategy. This chapter will present a multi-pronged approach that begins with engaging children and adults, as well as prioritization of citizen stewardship programs in awarding of grants.

By design, the final strategy will foster a dramatic increase in the number of citizen stewards, of every age, who support and carry out local conservation and restoration. Actions to enhance educational experiences, build partnerships with communities and citizens, and expand environmental literacy will be prominent, realizing that when people understand their impact on the environment, they are more likely to be engaged in making a positive difference.

We have shared with the Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) your suggestion of bringing the Secretary for the Department of Education (DOE) onto the FLC in the near future. DOE leadership on the FLC will indeed help underscore the importance of environmental education and foster greater collaboration on education issues with the states and local governments.

The FLC is planning a briefing for Congressional staff prior to the release of the Executive Order. My staff will provide logistics in the near future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Shawn M. Garvin".

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

